Restriction on tourists and construction activities in tiger reserves

1038. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's monitoring Committee set up by the National Tiger Conservation Authority has come up with a new eco-tourism policy to restrict movement of tourists and construction activities in and around the tiger reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tourism activities around tiger reserves have become new source of tension and threat; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the eco-tourism policy will protect tigers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted a Committee, whose mandate, *interalia*, includes providing inputs for an ecotourism strategy to benefit fringe dwelling local people and relocated villagers.

(c) and (d) The new guidelines would be in conformity with the Tiger Task Force recommendations for strengthening tiger conservation in the country.

Pollution in Yamuna

1039. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has recently declared Yamuna as the worst polluted river;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has spent huge amount on the cleaning of Yamuna in the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the factors responsible due to which Yamuna has remained polluted and the effective steps taken to check its pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Yamuna has not been declared the worst polluted river. The water quality monitoring carried out by CPCB indicates that the water quality in the stretch of the river from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi

(downstream of Wazirabad barrage to Okhla barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 3.0 miligram per litre (mg/l).

(c) to (e) Government of India has launched the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna in a phased manner with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. YAP Phase-I was launched in April, 1993 and declared closed in February, 2003. The second phase of YAP commenced in December, 2004. A total of 272 schemes have been completed in 21 towns of the three States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and 753.25 millions litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under both the phases of YAP, at a cost of Rs. 830.74 crores. The works completed under YAP include interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants (STPs), creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development works. In addition, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also taken up large scale pollution abatement works for river Yamuna from its own resources.

The quality of water in Yamuna river has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

Pollution levels in metropolitan cities

†1040. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the level of pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) the details of the model list of all the desirable and undesirable elements found to be above or below the norms;

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to control pollution; and

(d) the future plan chalked out by Government to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Pollution levels in metropolitan cities are assessed and monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the following programmes:—

(i) National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP);

(ii) Water Quality Monitoring Programme (WQMP); and

(iii) Inventory of sewage generation and treatment in class-I cities and class-II towns.

The data collected during 2006-2008 indicate that the concentrations of air pollutants like Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and those of Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) except for Kolkata during 2008 are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.